

Weeds Gone Wild

Alien Plant Invaders of Natural Areas

Regions of alien invaders are silently creeping into the United States and quickly taking over by engulfing our native plants and animals at an alarming rate. Does this sound like a plot lifted from X-Files or Star Trek?

Surprisingly enough, the story is not science fiction.

Invasive weeds are taking over public lands at the rate of 4,300 acres a day according to one source! With growth like this, it's not surprising that this tide of invasive



alien species poses one of the greatest threats to the biological diversity

and natural ecosystems of the United States, second only to direct habitat destruction.

So, to say that a war is being waged against invasive alien plant and animal species across the U.S. is no exaggeration.



<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/>



Weeds Gone Wild:

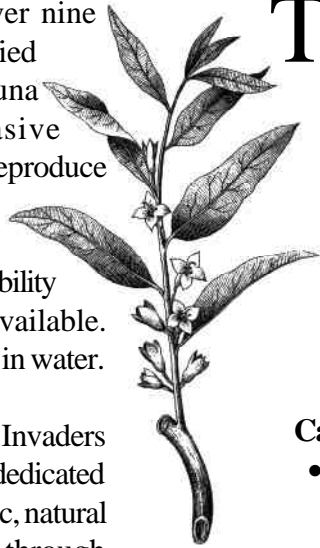
Alien Plant Invaders of Natural Areas

is a project of the Alien Plant Working Group (APWG), a subcommittee of the Plant Conservation Alliance. It is a cooperative effort intended to provide educational materials on the threat of invasive exotic plants to the native flora, fauna, and ecosystems of the United States. Additional fact sheet authors are needed, please contact the Chair of the APWG at: jil_swearingen@nps.gov for more information.

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Alien plants are those introduced into an area where they have never occurred naturally. They are also known as exotic, non-indigenous, and non-native. Over nine hundred plant species have been identified as threats to our native flora and fauna because of their aggressive, invasive characteristics. Invasive plants tend to reproduce rapidly and their phenomenal growth allows them to overwhelm and displace existing native plants by reducing the availability of light, water, nutrients and space available. Invasive plants can be found on land and in water.



Weeds Gone Wild: Alien Plant Invaders of Natural Areas is a website dedicated to educating the general public, natural resource managers, and other people through general overview information and a growing number of moderately technical fact sheets on invasive plant species. Fact sheets include photos, plant descriptions, and information on ecological threats, U.S. distribution and habitat, methods of reproduction and spread, physical, chemical and biological management options, and expert contacts, suggestions for native plants and non-invasive substitutes for landscaping, and references. The site also offers a list of invasive plants affecting natural areas in the U.S., links to over 100 relevant organizations, a section on exotic invasives in the news, a printable calendar, an online event calendar and other information. Keep visiting; new fact sheets and other information will be continually added to the website!



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The forty-five plant invaders with fact sheets currently available on the site are:

Annual Bastard-Cabbage (*Rapistrum rugosum*)

- **Asiatic colubrina** (*Colubrina asiatica*) •
- Asiatic sand sedge** (*Carex kobomugi*)
- **Australian pine** (*Casuarina equisetifolia*) •
- Black locust** (*Robinia pseudoacacia*)
- **Burma reed** (*Neyraudia reynaudiana*) •

Bush honeysuckles, exotic (*Lonicera* cultivars and species)

- **Canada thistle** (*Cirsium arvense*) •

Carrotwood (*Cupaniopsis anacardioides*) • **Chinese lespedeza** (*Lespedeza cuneata*)

- **Climbing euonymus** (*Euonymus fortunei*) • **Cogon grass** (*Imperata cylindrica*) •
- Common buckthorn** (*Rhamnus cathartica*) • **Common mullein** (*Verbascum thapsus*)
- **English Ivy** (*Hedera helix*) • **Eurasian watermilfoil** (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) •

Fire tree (*Myrica faya*) • **Fiveleaf akebia** (*Akebia quinata*)

- **Fountain grass** (*Pennisetum setaceum*) • **Garlic mustard** (*Alliaria petiolata*) •

Giant reed (*Arundo donax*) • **Japanese knotweed** (*Polygonum cuspidatum*)

- **Japanese spiraea** (*Spiraea japonica*) • **Japanese stilt grass** (*Microstegium vimineum*) •

Kudzu (*Pueraria montana* var. *lobata*) • **Leafy spurge** (*Euphorbia esula*)

- **Lesser celandine** (*Ranunculus ficaria*) • **Melaleuca** (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*) •

Mile-a-minute (*Polygonum perfoliatum*) • **Multiflora rose** (*Rosa multiflora*)

- **Musk thistle** (*Carduus nutans*) • **Oriental bittersweet** (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) •

Porcelainberry (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*)

- **Princess tree** (*Paulownia tomentosa*) •

Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)

- **Russian-olive** (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*) •

Salt cedar (*Tamarix* species) • **Silk tree** (*Albizia julibrissin*)

- **Strawberry guava** (*Psidium cattleianum*) •

Tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)

- **Velvet tree** (*Miconia calvescens*) • **White poplar** (*Populus alba*) •

Wineberry (*Rubus phoenicolasius*)

- **Wisterias, exotic** (*Wisteria floribunda* and *sinensis*) •

Yellow Himalayan raspberry (*Rubus ellipticus*)

